Dear Ladywood Community,

I am delighted to be writing to you to introduce St Joseph, who are now formally working in partnership with Birmingham City Council, to outline how we aim to work with you on plans for the Ladywood Estate Regeneration project.

Having signed the Partnership Agreement with Birmingham City Council, we are able to meet with you and the rest of the community to develop plans for the area. A fundamental part of this will be the formation of a Residents Steering Group and publication of the Resident & Community Charter.

From the outset, I would like to assure you that we agree with the principles of Powered by People, the Council's Vision and Approach to Engagement. Once adopted, St Joseph will also be signing up to the Ladywood Resident and Community Charter, which is a written commitment on how the Council will work with the community throughout the lifetime of the Project. Whilst substantial work has already gone into the formation of the Charter, we believe that its latest draft needs further consultation with the wider community and soon to be formed Residents Steering Group before it can be published.

This project will ensure that the Ladywood Estate, and its homes are fit for the future, with improved energy efficiency and green spaces that provide safe, welcoming places to live. We are committed to minimising the demolition and acquisition of private homes throughout this regeneration. In fact, our commitment is for at least 70% of the existing homes (all tenures) on the estate to either be retained, refurbished or replaced with new homes, ensuring that residents can move into their homes in a single move on the estate.

The regeneration will also deliver significant new housing of all tenures, including private and genuinely affordable homes, helping to meet the urgent need for new homes in the city and surrounding area. Additionally, it will create new jobs and opportunities for local people, including training, apprenticeships, and full-time employment.

A project of this scale can only be successful with the support of the local community. Therefore, it is crucial that we listen to and engage with you fully in the coming months. We are aware of the significant coverage the project has already received, and we understand this has raised many questions and concerns. To address this, we propose to consult the community on a neighbourhood-based strategy that aims to minimise demolition and the acquisition of private homes, provide greater certainty, and deliver the benefits as soon as possible.

I am pleased to include your personal copy of our brochure, *'Our Approach to Community Engagement and Consultation,'* which gives further details on how we want to work with you. Below is a summary of what to expect in the coming months:

- Set out details of the continued Engagement Strategy,
- Form a Residents Steering Group,
- Publish the Resident & Community Charter,

- Establish a Youth Panel to understand the needs of current and future generations; and
- Open a dedicated community space within Ladywood as our base for engagement.

For homeowners, BCC tenants, residents of the BCC towers, and tenants of registered providers, we have a dedicated contact leaflet with essential contact information. You can find these on the website or request a hard copy through our email address or phone number. Hard copies will also be available at the Community Centre.

We have a dedicated email and phone line if you would like to get in touch at ladywoodcommunity@stjosephhomes.co.uk and 0800 368 7592, both will be staffed Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm, and a community website which will kept up to date with latest news and events at www.ladywoodcommunity.co.uk.

We have an ongoing survey on the website, and we encourage you to use it to tell us what works for you, and what does not. This will help us understand how you would like to be communicated with and how we can best work together. You can access the survey via the QR code below or call the project number to complete it with a member of the team.

I am also pleased to announce that St Joseph will be taking a lease from the Council of the old neighbourhood office on Botany Walk which we will refurbish and use as the base for the St Joseph and BCC project team. It will also act as a central community hub that will be home to local charities and will provide space for community events to take place. There will be more to follow in the coming weeks, and I hope you will get involved with how you would like the space to be used.

I am mindful this is a lot of information to take in, but we wanted to be sure that our first point of communication to you is open, honest and transparent, as will all future communications.

We now can now work together, to share our ideas and opinions and make sure this exciting project delivers for you.

Warm regards,

Steve Kirwan
Managing Director